

18/6

1900 - Native Church -

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UNITED PROVINCES CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

Constitution

NAME.

1. The name of the Council is the United Provinces Christian Council.

BASIS.

2. This Council is representative of Church Bodies and Missions in the United Provinces which share the common faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour.

3. The Council is established on the basis that its functions are consultative and advisory, not legislative and mandatory. In no circumstances will the Council commit the bodies joining in it to any attitude or course of action without their consent.

OBJECTS.

4. The objects of the Council are :—

- (a) To foster mutual understanding among all Christian Church Bodies and Missions in its sphere of influence ;
- (b) To promote among them co-operation in policy and activity ;
- (c) To collect and disseminate information regarding the needs and opportunities of the field and the work that is being done ;
- (d) To stimulate thinking and investigation on missionary questions ;
- (e) To co-operate with similar organizations in India and elsewhere.

METHODS.

5. The Council shall ordinarily meet annually.
6. The Council shall at its annual meeting appoint such Committees for various purposes as shall from time to time be determined.
7. The Council shall at its annual meeting elect officers and an Executive Committee to act for it in the intervals between its meetings.

MEMBERSHIP.

8. Missions and Church Bodies within the area of the United Provinces are eligible for affiliation who consent to the principles of the Council as defined in clauses 2 and 3, and who pay such subscription to the funds of the Council as shall be from time to time determined.

9. Affiliated Mission and Church Bodies shall be entitled to representation in the following proportions :—

(a) *Missions.*—

12 to	40	Missionaries,	one	representative.
41 to	75	„	two	representatives.
76 to	120	„	three	„
Over	120	„	four	„

NOTE.—(i) *Women are eligible as representatives : where the number of representatives is three or more at least one shall be a women.*

(ii) *Missionaries on furlough and Missionaries' wives shall be counted.*

(b) *Church Bodies.*—

100 to 1,000 communicants or members in full standing, one representative.

1,001 to 2,000 communicants or members in full standing, two representatives.

2,001 to 4,000 communicants or members in full standing, three representatives.

4,001 to 8,000 communicants or members in full standing, four representatives.

8,001 to 12,000 communicants or members in full standing, five representatives.

Over 12,000 communicants or members in full standing, six representatives.

NOTE—*Women are eligible as representatives : if there be three or four representatives, at least one shall be a woman : if there be five or six, at least two shall be women.*

(c) The North India Tract Society, the Bible Society, and the Y. M. C. A., being related to Societies who are members of the Con-

ferences of Foreign Missionary Societies in North America and Great Britain, and the National Missionary Society shall be entitled to send one representative each.

10. Representatives shall be elected by the bodies whom they represent.

11. The total membership of the Council shall be sixty ; of these not less than one-half shall be Indian, and not less than one-quarter women, and, so far as possible, one-quarter shall be co-opted members.

12. The co-opted members shall be appointed as follows :—

(a) The Council shall at its annual meeting co-opt at least one-half of the required number ;

(b) The Executive Committee shall during the year and not less than one month before the next annual meeting co-opt so many as are required to complete the number of the Council, bearing in mind the above-mentioned proportions of Indian and women members and the necessities of special interests.

13. If any doubt arise about the claim of any Church Body or Mission to be represented on the Council or about the extent of representation due to it, the matter shall be decided by the Council on a report from the Executive Committee.

14. A schedule setting forth the number of representatives to which each Church Body or Mission is entitled shall be drawn up and revised from time to time by the Council on report from the Executive Committee, to whom all applications for affiliation or for increased representation must be made.

OFFICERS.

15. The Council shall elect annually from its members a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

COMMITTEES.

16. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the Council and five additional members elected at the annual meeting, with power to fill vacancies in its own membership.

17. (a) The Council shall at each annual meeting appoint such Committees for specific purposes as it shall from time to time determine.

(b) Each Committee shall have power to co-opt not exceeding the number of its original members.

FINANCE.

18. Each Mission and Church Body represented in the Council shall pay such annual subscription to the funds of the Council as may be from time to time decided in proportion to the number of its representatives.

19. At the annual or any other general meeting of the Council one-third of the total membership shall form a quorum.

20. This Constitution may be changed or amended by a two-thirds majority vote of those present at any annual meeting of the Council, provided that one month's notice has been given in writing to the members.

SCHEDULE OF REPRESENTATION.

UNDER RULES 9 AND 14.

(*Directory of Christian Missions, 1922 and Provincial Statistic for 1921.*)

MISSIONS.

(*Number of missionaries in brackets.*)

	Men	Women
American Presbyterian (101) ...	2	1
Assemblies of God (37) ...	1	...
Baptists Missionary Society (14) ...	1	...
Church of England Missions (98)...	2	1
Disciples of Christ (28) ...	1	...
London Missionary Society (30)...	1	...
Methodist Episcopal (185) ...	3	1
Wesleyan Missionary Society (20) ...	1	...
Women's Union Missionary Society (17) ...	...	1
Zanana Bible and Medical Missions (32) ...	...	1
Total ...	12	5=7
North India Tract Society, etc ...	2+2	...=4

CHURCH BODIES.

Presbyterians	...	...	3	1
Baptists (English)	...	...	1	...
... (Swedish)	...	...	1	...
Church of England	...	...	2	1
Disciples of Christ	...	...	1	...
Congregationalists	...	...	1	...
Methodist Episcopal	...	...	4	2
Wesleyans	...	...	1	...
Totals			14	4=18
				39

Assuming the total membership to be 60, this leaves to be co-opted—

	Men	Women
Indians	7	3
Foreigners	8	3
Totals	15	6=21
		60

Bye-Laws.**1. Tenure of Membership.**

- (a) Representative members appointed by the bodies constituting the Council shall hold office from the beginning of an annual meeting up to the day before the annual meeting next following.
- (b) Vacancies occurring during this period may be filled by the body appointing.
- (c) Co-opted members shall hold office from the time of appointment till the end of the ensuing annual meeting.
- (d) The appointment of representative members shall be communicated to the Secretary by the appointing bodies, if possible, at least six weeks before the date of the annual meeting.

2. Officers.

The officers of the Council shall hold office from the close of the annual meeting till the close of the succeeding annual meeting.

3. Committees.

- (a) The Executive Committee shall carry on the business of the Council during intervals between the General Meetings.
- (b) At a meeting of the Executive Committee four shall form a quorum. The Chairman shall have both a deliberative and a casting vote.
- (c) Members of all committees appointed by the Council shall hold office from the close of the annual meeting till the close of the succeeding annual meeting.
- (d) Members of committees other than the Executive Committee need not be members of the Council, but the Convener must always be a member of the Council.
- (e) Members of committees who are not members of the Council may attend meetings of the Council without vote and may speak by the permission of the chair.
- (f) At meetings of committees other than the Executive one-third of the Committee shall form a quorum.

4. Representatives to the National Council.

Representatives to the N. C. C. shall be elected for a period of four years, *i. e.*, for two ordinary meetings of the National Council. Two shall be elected every alternate year, of whom at least one shall be Indian.

5. Rules of procedure.

Any question of rules of procedure or debate not determined by the bye-laws shall be decided by the chairman.

6. *Finance.*

(a) Constituent Missions shall contribute according to a schedule to be drawn up from time to time, the guiding principle being that the rate shall be approximately Re. 1-8 for each foreign missionary (including wives) with a minimum of Rs. 30. The schedule now in force is :—

Name of Missions and Societies.	No. of Mis- sionaries.	Amount at Rs. 1. 8. 0.	Present Contribu- tion.
A. P. Mission	101	151	130
Assemblies of God Mission ...	37	55	
Baptist Mission	14	30	30
Church of England Mission ...	98	147	140
Disciples of Christ	28	42	35
London Mission	30	45	45
Methodist Mission	185	277	255
Wesleyan Mission	20	30	30
Zenana Bible and Medical Mission	32	48	60
Women's Union Mission ...	17	30	30
N. I. C. Tract and Book Society ...	...	30	30
Bible Society ... ..	..	30	30
Y. M. C. A. ... ..	...	30	30
N. M. S. ... ..	...	30	30
Total Rs. ... ..	...	975	875

(b) Constituent Church Bodies shall contribute at the rate of Rs. 20 for each representative member.

